United Nations S/PRST/2010/13

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 July 2010

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6355th meeting of the Security Council, held on 9 July 2010, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Letter dated 4 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/281) and other relevant letters", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council notes the letter dated 4 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/281), and the letter dated 8 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/294).

"The Security Council deplores the attack on 26 March 2010 which led to the sinking of the ROK naval ship, the *Cheonan*, resulting in the tragic loss of 46 lives.

"The Security Council determines that such an incident endangers peace and security in the region and beyond.

"The Security Council deplores the loss of life and injuries and expresses its deep sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families and to the people and Government of the ROK, and calls for appropriate and peaceful measures to be taken against those responsible for the incident aimed at the peaceful settlement of the issue in accordance with the UN Charter and all other relevant provisions of international law.

"In view of the findings of the Joint Civilian-Military Investigation Group led by the ROK with the participation of five nations, which concluded that the DPRK was responsible for sinking the *Cheonan*, the Security Council expresses its deep concern.

"The Security Council takes note of the responses from other relevant parties, including from the DPRK, which has stated that it had nothing to do with the incident.

"Therefore, the Security Council condemns the attack which led to the sinking of the *Cheonan*.

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"The Security Council underscores the importance of preventing further such attacks or hostilities against the ROK or in the region.

"The Security Council welcomes the restraint shown by the ROK and stresses the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in north-east Asia as a whole.

"The Security Council calls for full adherence to the Korean Armistice Agreement and encourages the settlement of outstanding issues on the Korean peninsula by peaceful means to resume direct dialogue and negotiation through appropriate channels as early as possible, with a view to avoiding conflicts and averting escalation.

"The Security Council reaffirms the importance that all Member States uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations."